THE ARMS RACE: CLASS ACTION VERSUS MORALISM

see page 3
**The Long Struggle**

The dispute between sacked workers and Keetons' boss, Doyle, in Sheffield continued in September. Keetons make sheet metal working machinery, and Doyle is so bad at his job that the workers have called for his sacking. The dispute continues to escalate, with the workers' dignity and rights being undermined.

**DA: What started the dispute?**

**KS: Doyle broke staffing and safety agreements. When we voted for strike action he informed us we were sacked.**

**STORM CLOUDS**

GUESS WHAT? This piece of burying the past means "GDP has risen consistently since 1981 but its rate of increase has been subject to policy-induced fluctuations with growth tending to peak in election years..." Basically, even the bosses admit to creating unemployment by creating short-lived "booms", which are necessary for Thatcher in public and paint a bright future, bankers and financiers know trouble is brewing. In a little-publicised report published at the end of the summer, Lloyds Bank predicted growth would be just 2.5% in the current year and 3.25% to a pathetic 2% by 1989; a reverse in unemployment "drops" by the middle of next year, rising inflation, and more stock market instability. What will mean is a fresh round of attacks on the working class as the bosses try to protect profits by pushing down our living standards and attacking the right to organise. The bosses and their government are preparing for battle - are we?

**THE GOVERNMENT**

began a phased merger of the Unemployment Benefit Service and Manpower Services Commission on October 26th. Initially it will be at an administration level but ultimately involves full integration into the UBS of all 11,000 MSC staff and most of the schemes now carried out by Job Centres, like Restart and Job Clubs. UDS workers are increasingly administering Restart, in which claimants' benefit can be cut for not attending an interview. Also the government has made known its intention to make YTS compulsory for 16-18 year olds.

The merger will result in an even more intense linking of benefit provision with recruitment to slave labour schemes. With the advent of "work" for the dole" Job Training Schemes it doesn't take much to imagine a claimant signing on for the first time being faced with the choice of work for dole or no dole. This industrial conscience must be seen as the government's goal, to keep a tight grip on the unemployed and driving them off benefits by forcing more and more claimants on to job schemes.

**ATTACKS**

This isn't just a vicious attack on unemployed workers (with the Fowler Review on all claimants) but also an attack on civil liberties. West Bromwich and Bolton URO structures prevent the use of YTS "trainees" in their offices [winning their withdrawal from West Bromwich]. We thus have the obverse scenario of civil servants administering schemes which not only offer industrial discipline but also structurally undermine our own social relations and wages, 50% of Job Clubs are now run by rip-off private firms and we're supposed to believe Fowler's "assurances" of no staff or budget cuts.

**MERGER MEANS MISERY**

It's hard to say how long the merger, which is a simple administrative re-organisation will take. But its full implications must be understood, as was the case for a joint campaign of UBS/MSF workers and the unemployed.

**DIRECT ACTION NO23**

**The Long Struggle**

**KEETONS STRIKERS**

**DISABLED RIGHTS VICTORY**

RECENTLY IN ELGIN, Morayshire, a woman, backed by workmates, won her right to continue in a job at the local unemployment benefit office.

Management gave her redundancy notice as she apparently failed a so-called health examination, which they said meant she wasn't capable of doing her job. They said she warned her this might happen when she was first taken on but she denied this. Not surprisingly the exact opposite was the case, as a workmate said on the local radio that she was just as capable as anyone else and probably had a better attendance record than most.

In protest the woman staged a sit-in/work-in lasting 4 days. During this time the management asked her to leave every hour and were not allowed by name of workers who continued to pass on work to her in solidarity. The woman's name-taking was to harass and intimidate them into not helping the woman and, they believed, towards a blacklist against them.

The Scottish TUC threatened to give her their "total support" but luckily managed to talk them out of that! So after 4 days it was announced that she could continue working as normal. The disabled, like other so-called "minorities", are part of the system and demand all the support we can give them. Every little victory counts.

**FACING THE FUTURE**

ON THE WEEKEND of 12-13th September, about 70 DAM members met for a special summer school in London. The main issue was the future direction of the DAM. Comrades gave reports on the situation in their industries. There were also discussions on employment law, the non-anarchist ways in which the state smothers the growth of a number of workers. The discussions also included the theme of anti-war, anti-militarism, and the effects of social democracy. The first day concentrated on the current conditions facing us, and the second on our responses. After dissolution, a consensus was reached on the priorities for DAM in the coming years. DAM is going to take a more radical, more outspoken, more militant, and more nationalistic, if we succeed in laying the foundations for the future development of the DAM. It is emphasised our commitment to supporting working class struggles both in and out of the community, and how best we can offer our solidarity.

**MOAT HOUSE STRIKE**

SIXTY TWO SACKED in the Moat House Hotel strike, Liverpool. (see press) DA 40. A list of other Moat House Hotels in Britain is available from Box DAM, 82 Lark Lane, Alrgha, Liverpool 17 (please send an SAE). Donations and messages of support can be sent to Moat House Hotel Strikers, Transport House, Islington, Liverpool J.
NO WAR BUT THE CLASS WAR

The proposed reduction in medium-range nuclear weapons, a mere 3% of the total world arsenal, has been greeted as a justification of the west's strong stand. The real reason though is economic necessity. The USSR's fragile economy can't keep up the present rate of arms expenditure and in the US capital is needed to invest in the more profitable Star Wars project rather than obsolete missiles. In Britain a positive spin-off for the government will be the neutralising of CND and the wider peace movement.

The Cuban Missile Crisis was responsible for the 1960s peace movement demonstrating the weakness of Britain in general, and CND in particular, in the superpowers' life, and death decisions. Also it showed they could retreat from the brink of the nuclear abyss. The Test Ban Treaty effectively ended the movement, satisfying the moderates, while radicals moved into the Vietnam Solidarity Campaign. CND revived in the late 70's with the New Cold War. This time it tried to reconcile its various factions by emphasising local group structure and semi-autonomous sections.

LITTLE IMPACT

The last election showed how little impact the peace movement has really had in the last 5 years. The defence debate was conducted on the same lines as a decade before. Thatcher simply played on the "Russian Threat" argument that even if any state did disarm, at the first sign of trouble they'd re-arm. The nuclear weapons can't be dis-invented. The peace movement has no coherent alternative to this. One group argue for more dependency on conventional forces, another for neutrality, yet another for a pacifist line, with numerous variations in between.

Such inconsistency is due to the peace movement's middle-class radicalism. It takes an essentially moral stand against nuclear weapons, a stand as possible for the "middle ground" in the super-powers. As former CND General Secretary stated, they wish to distance themselves from "cranks and partisans" but nevertheless some of the leading CND leaders are academics, as well as political parties and union leaders. On another level EP Thompson, the Marxist historian, argued that nuclear weapons have become the "central human feature" of world politics, that opposition to them should take precedence over other conflicts, especially class conflict. CND has seized this theory of "extremism" to justify their position.

They argue that the arms race has its own momentum and can, in itself, lead to war. Based on the experience of the pre-WW1 arm race, they say that unless something is done, the arms race will lead to war. Britains, with the most armaments, are the most likely to start a war. But this argument is based on the assumption that the arms race will continue. This is not the case, as the arms race has been reduced since the end of the Cold War.

The majority of the British peace movement hasn't been convinced by CND's arguments.

The state recognises only one legitimate use of force - its own - so any opposition to war must also oppose the state and any anti-state opposition must fight on an economic and political level. This does not mean they should embrace pacifism. Peace can only be achieved when oppression is ended. The state and its ruling class uses the ultimate threat of force to retain their status. Today this is re-enforced by military and economic power, NATO, EEC, Warsaw Pact etc. If one member state is subjugated by another or, more importantly, by internal aggression, other members of the ruling class will act to protect it.

Two world wars this century have profoundly affected the modern state, hastening counter-revolution and establishing the military at the centre of state affairs. "War is the health of the state" - and the cold war has been a means of maintaining a high level of internal stability without the uncertainty of major conflict. Multiparty, revolutionary situations have occurred when the ruling class has been divided. This includes uncertainty with and within the military. This can only be achieved through conscious working class opposition to militarism and state control. To progress we must cross class boundaries and fight for our class, then we will be able to attack the roots of militarism and not just its products. Only a truly international working class movement can do this, embracing anti-militarism as an integral part of a wider economic and political opposition to capitalism and the state.

All of this is inadequate. A coherent anti-militarism is needed, recognising that all states are founded on force, that arms races cannot be isolated from social, economic and political circumstances in which they occur. Anti-militarism has always been intractable to anarchist-syndicalism. It recognises that all states' military and police forces are there, not only to oppose other states, but to attack the working class.

CONTRADICTION

CND is caught in a contradiction from which it is unable to escape. It aims to abolish the tools of war without attacking its causes. It has failed to come to terms with four major points:

- No state has ever willingly abandoned its major weapons programs.
- The knowledge to build nuclear weapons' that's for business. There's no guarantee a state won't re-introduce them in a new guise.
- Nuclear weapons are produced by centralised and bureaucratised states, capitalist and state-socialist. To oppose them means opposing aspects of the states that produce them.
- The overwhelming bulk of arms spending is on conventional, not nuclear, arms.

It is no coincidence the New Cold War began with a wave of 3rd world revolutions, a sharpening of the contradictions within and between capitalist states and the rise of militarism in the USA. The British peace movement has no realistic view on the causes of the war, the superficial view that war can be eliminated by campaigning against its tools - if only everyone would stand up and object the sheer weight of feeling would be enough to persuade the state to disarm.

MORALISM

This middle-class radicalism and moralism has led to a move nuclear arms while retaining the capitalist system which produces them, a system in which they have a stake. Yet state states to unilateral disarmament is to attack the ruling classes' economic interests. They thus are ultimately fundamental repression. Before WWII syndicalists were at the forefront of anti-militarist propaganda producing the famous "Dont shoot" leaflet distributed to soldiers calling them not to turn their rifles on fellow workers, resulting in the arrest and imprisonment of several militants.

The state recognises only one legitimate use of force - its own - so any opposition to war must also oppose the state and any anti-state opposition must fight on an economic and political level. This does not mean they should embrace pacifism. Peace can only be achieved when oppression is ended. The state and its ruling class uses the ultimate threat of force to retain their status. Today this is re-enforced by military and economic power, NATO, EEC, Warsaw Pact etc. If one member state is subjugated by another or, more importantly, by internal aggression, other members of the ruling class will act to protect it.

Two world wars this century have profoundly affected the modern state, hastening counter-revolution and establishing the military at the centre of state affairs. "War is the health of the state" - and the cold war has been a means of maintaining a high level of internal stability without the uncertainty of major conflict. Multiparty, revolutionary situations have occurred when the ruling class has been divided. This includes uncertainty with and within the military. This can only be achieved through conscious working class opposition to militarism and state control. To progress we must cross class boundaries and fight for our class, then we will be able to attack the roots of militarism and not just its products. Only a truly international working class movement can do this, embracing anti-militarism as an integral part of a wider economic and political opposition to capitalism and the state.

They never said anything about this at the jobcentre.

The Missing Link

IRISH REPUBLICAN sources claim "hero" Capt Simon Hayward, recently caught drug smuggling in Sweden, was going to sell them for untraceable cash to buy weapons for "plausibly deniable" death squads and sell the later near-fatally shooting of Belfast Sinn Fein councilor Alex Maskey. British death squads seem to have become an increasing part of action against republican resistance.

The Irish Republican Socialist Party also claim British Military Intelligence involvement in the recent INLA feud continuing a longstanding policy of placating the "RSP" leaders previously carried out by the RUC's Divisional Mobile Support Unit. Claims that Hayward is an SAS officer are not surprising the confronting the gunman, begged down the 3 unarmed men with one magazine of his Heckler & Koch assault rifle, emptied a second into them as they lay wounded, and then shot each of them in the back of the head with his Browning automatic. That's what the British press call modernism.
POLITICs: DON'T MOAN - ORGANISE!

It's no surprise that with the Scottish National Party in office, the pace of attacks on the working class has escalated. The Abolition of Domestic Rates, etc. (Scotland) Act - the Poll Tax - has now become law, having been passed by a Labour Government before the election. It will be introduced on the 1st April 1990. Workers are being hit until 1990 and England will have it phased in from 1990 to 1994.

The present rates are based on a building's size and value. The poll tax will be based on individuals so no matter how many people live in a house everyone over 18 will have to pay. In a town where the average rate is about £280 for a whole household the annual bill could rise to £1,000 under the poll tax. This will be charged with no regard to ability to pay, except prisoners, long-term hospital patients, the severely mentally handicapped and people living in nursing and residential homes. This means those on YTS, JTS, student nurses, and apprentices will be paying the full rates.

People on unemployment and supplementary benefit will have an 80% rebate. The remaining 20% will initially be covered by a top-up in their local government benefit. From 1992 the national average poll tax. However the Treasury plans to claw this top-up back by not increasing benefits for the unemployed. If this is the case in succeeding years there are at present no plans to introduce an average only for Scotland, so presumably Scottish claimants will have to find that 20% from their already meagre benefit and the rest of Britain comes into line.

This move only benefits the rich by shifting the rates burden to the poor. It also takes money from local councils - a back door way to resources that have been and still are being ranched by central government.

"BETTER OFF" AREAS

A survey by Edinburgh District Council research unit established that out of Edinburgh's 62 districts only 7 will gain from the new system - in only 3 a wards a household will profit by over £100. No

A community register" of people paying the poll tax will include all those on the electoral register. To avoid payment people will have to get their names off the register. So only those who pay can vote - in effect voting will be privatised. Many people don't vote anyway but avoiding the poll tax will further inconvenience to abstainers. The penalty for not registering will be the negligible inconvenience of paying the poll tax.

The north poll for guessing they are the "better off" areas. A similar situation will occur in Glasgow and throughout Scotland. Severe collection difficulties will mean that income not collected in a particular year will be added to the following year's poll tax to make up the deficit.

A "community register" of people paying the poll tax will include all those on the electoral register. To avoid payment people will have to get their names off the register. So only those who pay can vote - in effect voting will be privatised. Many people don't vote anyway but avoiding the poll tax will further inconvenience to abstainers. The penalty for not registering will be the negligible inconvenience of paying the poll tax.

The north poll for guessing they are the "better off" areas. A similar situation will occur in Glasgow and throughout Scotland. Severe collection difficulties will mean that income not collected in a particular year will be added to the following year's poll tax to make up the deficit.

POLL TAX: DON'T MOAN - ORGANISE!

The north poll for guessing they are the "better off" areas. A similar situation will occur in Glasgow and throughout Scotland. Severe collection difficulties will mean that income not collected in a particular year will be added to the following year's poll tax to make up the deficit.

POLL TAX: DON'T MOAN - ORGANISE!

The north poll for guessing they are the "better off" areas. A similar situation will occur in Glasgow and throughout Scotland. Severe collection difficulties will mean that income not collected in a particular year will be added to the following year's poll tax to make up the deficit.

POLL TAX: DON'T MOAN - ORGANISE!

The north poll for guessing they are the "better off" areas. A similar situation will occur in Glasgow and throughout Scotland. Severe collection difficulties will mean that income not collected in a particular year will be added to the following year's poll tax to make up the deficit.
**Working For Bureaucrats**

Hackney, along with other Labour-controlled boroughs, is rate-capped again. Having set the same rate as last year at £145 million (a cut in itself), the rate cap is set at £128 million, also the same as before. Deprived of the money to actually provide services rather than the bulk which goes on vote-winning and fund-raising, the whole class of bureaucratic workers sites created by trendy left councils, the first cuts are on the way.

True to form, the council and its managers are attacking the poorest people, and jobs and conditions of those providing services. Housing action groups, vital in supporting private tenants, are being wound up totally. Other housing department workers are resisting the offer of only 2 sub-standard, hastily done up choices of accommodation (usually it's 4) to people in bed and breakfast - a discriminating practice designed to make people "intentionally" homeless. The targets are mostly Bangladesh or Irish - it is no less racist than Liberal Tower Hamlets, because Lib Dem council is that "really serious about equal opportunities".

Hackney's housing crisis is particularly acute, with thousands of empty properties waiting for years for repairs and about twice as many people homeless. The council cannot house people but still treats squatters as part of the problem. To make it worse one proposed way to cut costs is to sell off assets, including empty council houses. These won't be bought by local people, but by developers, who will convert them to luxury housing for yuppies.

This is municipal socialism in action. The cuts will be blamed on the Tories, but not only are Labour more than willing to make them (and their anti-working class bias is seen in the targets) but are to blame for them in the first place. The Audit Commission on corruption outlined what local people could have told them without Arden's vast fees. That is, although a very poor borough the small amount of money available to Hackney for improvements is wasted up to 75% of it. This means cuts hit basic services as management will make sure services and not waste is cut.

A SOCIALIST LIBRARY SERVICE

The real waste is overpaid top-heaviness and incompetent management. "Left" Lib council thrives on endless memos, proposals, and pointless scoring schemes about making services "more efficient". These people have no idea how to do it. Ask for decent pay and conditions or enough staff to provide an adequate service and you get stony silence. Learn the right phrases and write a load of bullshit using them and they're all ears (you'll probably get re-graduated - "about 25 years worth more for senior management"). Local Labour leaderships and council managers belong to the same trendy left bureaucratic class and it's in their, not the working class', interests that they act. Reports which play the right tune look good on their writers', and their equality careerist political masters' CV's.

A classic example of waste versus services and Labour-approved managements' class bias is "management re-structuring" in Hackney libraries. The first arrivals were called to a meeting when staff shortages caused by management cuts (unfilled posts were ignored). Over 10% of staff are missing - a real problem when you're trying to provide a service. The next came when it was proposed to remove senior staff from useful jobs to make them into a workable management structure, creating a 15-20% staff shortage. It means library assistants (like shop assistants) doing senior staff's work as well as their own. No chance of re-grading (a living wage at last!) for them but for existing management who do nothing useful it'll be automatic even though they are merely raised to the top of the whole structure. And it'll fuck the public up because there'll never be staff enough in libraries to get them open. Existing management get enough between them to pay for about 10 library assistants. Cutting the bastard council workers need to fight back. We are harassed by the number of council unions, and by the fact that white collar union recruit management grades as well as workers. Many manual workers refer to their management at NALGO as they are often members of that union. Workers in NALGO must unite with manual grades, and the first step is expelling all senior managers from our union. These bastards are our enemy. They are to blame for waste, inefficiency and cuts which affect council workers and service users. We must then build rank and file unity across the unions on a class basis, act, and argue our case with the public to gain support.

In March Islington housing advisors struck when suspend- ed for taking minimal action in support of a regrading claim (see May DA). They won their battle through involving the workers and then tried to provide a service to tenants. In our strike we must do secure and pay our strikers. Workers must be listening in the interests of those who use public services, and let them know. We must also be united, and only the rank and file can achieve that unity, not official empty deity declarations. Unite and win the battle for the management, and all bosses!

Contact: DAM Council Workers, 84b Whitechapel High Street, London E1.

**Healthy Anger**

Wage Demolition

A STRUGGLE over wages and conditions has been going on for over 3 months at an Ogdens building site in Liverpool. The TGWU had managed to unionise about a dozen workers when Ogdens, industry-wide, firing the shop steward and on Thursday 25th June - the wettest day in June since 1920 he was told to work without any wet weather gear or go home, so he went home. The next day the workers downed tools because Ogdens wouldn't pay him for the day before and refused to let him on the site.

About 30 scabs were brought in so calls went out to other workers and the picket line grew from a dozen to hundreds. The day the scabs lost there were 800 pickets. The police were totally outnumbered and didn't even attempt to take the scabs through. The shop steward won full reinstatement and the workers returned on July 20th.

On the first week back, however, Ogdens dropped the wages to £80. So 12 workers decided to go on strike. Attempts to spread the strike to other Ogdens sites and other building sites regardless of employer and calls to other workers on Merseyside for solidarity went nowhere. When workers at the site were sacked, the TGWU called a public meeting but got only 30 members. The TGWU committee delegates subject to recall, hold regular assemblies to discuss what to do, then chances of victory will be improved.

MERSYSIDE Health Authority are forcing yet more cuts in its hospitals by getting cheaper firms to do tendered work, buying less, supplies and - most dangerous of all - changing nurses' rota to reduce the overlap between shifts. At Crewe's Leighton hospital the changes have already been accepted in the accident and emergency section. Staff in 1 of the most overworked wards of the hospital now work 12 hour shifts for 3 days at a time. Management forced through change by threatening that they'd be communities served by the hospitals by getting cheaper firms to do tendered work, buying less supplies and - most dangerous of all - changing nurses' rota to reduce the overlap between shifts. At Crewe's Leighton hospital the changes have already been accepted in the accident and emergency section. Staff in 1 of the most overworked wards of the hospital now work 12 hour shifts for 3 days at a time. Through the shop steward won full reinstatement and the workers returned on July 20th.

CPSA GENERAL SECRETARY, John Ellis is up in arms as his union's "Militants"-dominated executive decided to cut his pay rise and sell his "company" car. He even went so far as to convince John Macredie that this was the same as attacking "his" mem- bers. As conditions, and that even if he was paid £100000 he'd feel the same. The tax advantage he gets only pays £25000 a year, 4 times what UBO workers get, I don't doubt it. It's true, it has obviously never occurred to him that that in itself is wrong. Another complaint is that the Trotskyists cannot grasp the logic of the situation. John Macredie is elected for a term of 5 years and is not recall- able, so not even the CPSA membership can answerable to any CPSA members, but to the leadership of Millitant. Which do you prefer, right wing bureaucrats or Trotskyists one?

**FAT CATS**

The N.H.S. would be so much more efficient without the patients.
**State Censorship—No Way!**

The band that shocked the moral majority

**The FAR RIGHT Parents' Music Resource Centre’s campaign to “clean up” music was set-back recently when Jello Biafra of the American punk band, The Dead Kennedys, and Michael Boman, ex-Alternative Tentacles Records, were acquitted of “distributing matter harmful to minors”.**

The offending article was a free poster juxtaposing human genitalia with butcher's slabs making a statement on how sex is used as a commodity.

After PMRC complaints admitted he aimed to cripple the band and silence Jello Biafra who faced jail if convicted.

**CLAMPDOWN**

This is just one aspect of an attempt to clamp down on forms of culture not conforming to the White Anglo-Saxon Protestant ideal. New regulations are the way to stop certain kinds of musicians, journalists and speakers cutting the US. Considering the influence of American ideas, the trial has serious implications. Music is an immediate and direct form of communication and, as in the Spanish Inquisition, is an ideal medium for expressing anarchist ideas. Attempts to suppress dissent must be resisted.

Due to their fierce independence and refusal to deal with major record companies the band received virtually no support from the recording industry, and their sales relied on collections and benefit shows and street sales. To make a donation, or for more information contact: No More Censorship Defence Fund, c/o 61-71 Collier Street, London N1.

**BREAD RIOTS**

**VOICE of Solidarity has reported a series of riots and workers’ demonstrations against food shortages in Rumania.**

These particular events, like so many others in Chile, came after a bread queue which had apparently been waiting for 10 hours. It was informed there would be “no bread today”.

The shop was turned over and the brave police, when they arrived, were chased to the top of the apartment block. After trying to defend themselves by throwing water over the demonstrators they were attacked and beaten. In violent clashes, young people who had arrived but not before demonstrators had painted “Down with the Ceausescu dictatorship” across walls and shopfronts. Similar demonstrations took place in factories calling for better wages and public provisions but, as the Voice of Solidarity correspondent points out, “these protests soon died, because the regime was wise enough to send a lorrie of bread in front of the police or they send some unidentified meat which is quickly distributed free of charge”.

Clearly the Rumanian state – with a new twist to 57 variants of Marxism, attempting to institute “dystropic Communism” under the benevolent gaze of the Ceausescu clan - is fearful enough of the mood among workers, who endure the worst living standards in Europe, not to risk widespread militancy. The lessons of the ’70s are a free union movement developed in Rumania have been learnt by the regime. It remains to be seen just how long the Rumanian working class remains satisfied with meat and bread hand-outs in place of the decent living standards that are their, and our, right.

Source: Voice of Solidarity, 215 Balham High Road, London SW17. (sub £12 per year)
Resisting police attacks

Q: Now you've won some concessions over the construction of a ship, won't this risk demobilising the workers?

A: Since the last general assembly called by all union sections (CCCO, UGT, CNT, CAT) on July 11 we've broken relations with the others as they wanted to sign a worse agreement than previously. We decided to continue the fight and prepare a general strike. The Cantabria assembly called an assembly attended by 1,500 workers.

Workers well understand the contract is due to their struggle. As other unions and the works committee no longer want to call assemblies, the contract will give the CNT a few months reprieve...to hold meetings throughout the district, with slides of the struggle and the agreements signed and other unions' refusal to organise assemblies. We want to show that 1 ship means nothing...Once we've covered all of Puerto Real we'll call a general assembly of the population - if other unions don't join us (we'd like to call it together) we'll demoralise them and do it in the CNT's name.

We want it all to coincide with what will happen from October, November and December onwards with the thousands of workers whose 3 years ago the government promised and signed new jobs or reinstallation if they agreed to go on the PFE (National Fund for Promotion of Employment - workers would be paid 80% of basic pay for 3 years). As we know they can't keep their promises, we can expect important struggles throughout the country.

Q: Nationally, what precisely do you see happening given the UGT and CCCO remain the largest unions?

A: We've prepared meetings with all minority unions like the Left Current in Asturias, a major force in small and medium yards with some prestige like the CNT in Puerto Real; INTG, a Galician nationalist union which also has a good base; CAT in Euskaldun in the Basque Country which is a significant force there. If we unite our potential we can mobilise 20,000 shipyard workers outside the bureaucratised unions. We'll have the meetings about the UGT and CCCO who favour a social contract with the state and bosses. Although they haven't signed the new pact, they've reach a tacit agreement.

From this the CCCO particularly, will expose its contradictions. For example in the ASTANO yard (Asturias) the majority of workers are in the CCCO, which will have to call an assembly and if not multiunion, we'll organise work and our call is sufficiently solid and united, we can develop a strategy of direct action in the affected areas - something that is difficult to do alone.

Q: What makes the CNT's actions so difficult?

A: When for example, we called the last workers' assembly in Puerto Real alone there were cops from all over Andalusia, sent by the civil government. From the moment all acts of terrorism, delinquency, and sabotage of telephone lines have been systematically blamed on the CNT. When we made a call alone the government or seized the opportunity to hit our organisation hard.

POLICE SET-UPS

We must be careful, especially now, to maintain momentum, not get isolated and avoid police set-ups as have happened before. Most importantly for the CNT in Puerto Real is that the struggle and radicalisation continues to be taken up by the workers' and community assemblies. Our role is to organise the means to defend all workers.

Our outlook is that after this latest struggle with broader but in the future, on the fundamental question of re-employment, we won't succeed. The balance of forces today favours the Social Party who can rely on the UGT to dampen social protests, and the CCCO who give the impression - that it's radical but in practice prepare ground for the Communists. Party and its electoral project with the "united left". Thus they need to demobilise the workers, re- main dependent on politicians and their pipedreams. However they are in a deep financial crisis in maintaining their bureaucracy. Although, on the fundamental question we won't succeed, the conflict create is incredibly important - many CCCO comrades have torn up their membership cards and joined the CNT.

It's clear redeployment is work with a different union based on an +positive situation+ favours capitalism. The exemplary struggles waged by the workers over the last 3 years and the fact they've seen the worst of capitalism manipulated, frustrated and betrayed forms a base where solid and grow and build its organisation.

A Leap into the Fire

"Tulips from Amsterdam" go the Radio 2 feature.
"A Direct Action gardening spot"? you ask - no, but the point is the majority of workers in the bulb fields and export factories are British or Irish youth escaping the poverty of life in 2 of the fastest de- clining economies in western Europe. However, the "escape" isn't from rags to riches but to some of the worst working conditions you've endured - badly paid work in primitive and insecure employment. It's merely a leap from the frying pan into the fire.

As the point of coming to Holland for many of us is the chance to spend some money on the things that sometimes the bad things - in life, many resort to taking uppers, with the consolatory damage to health, in order not only to stay awake during the 12 hour shift but also during the weekend, if hating everything working conditions have endured. The Channel is difficult! Inciden- tals of workers bringing stripping and getting sacked, with no savings to move on or find a house with aominos.

ORGANISATION

Yet it's true that for those who stick it a good time can be had. The vast majority are young, footloose and sharp enough to find an opening and, in the meantime, through casual summer sawmillet-ly nobody goes without a bite to eat or a drink. But the lack also remains the work needn't be hard, badly paid and insecure. Given the pressure a single day strike could ruin a quarter of the crop. A little organ- isation and commitment could get a better deal all round.

There are seldom strikes, often lasting only 2 or 3 hours bringing instant reward. Employees are often reluctant to call the police to evict workers risking pro- secution for employing labour on the black economy. So the bus workers' situation is extremely precarious and could be easily exploited by unite the country-wide industry-wide action won't come through 1 or 2 isolated militants to organise migrant labour in Holland there's thousands, thousands of other migrant agricultural workers in Europe. United's goal is not to clued up on labour legisla- tion, it's to raise the rank and file agitators on the farms. Only then will we see a change. Current drift- ing anarchismo-syndicalism not out in Holland the traditional field and in Britain too. We await a response from con- ctitutes both inside and out- side the militant anarchosyndicalist influenced Dutch union, the VAK.

Behind the glossy image lies a painful reality

There are 2 categories of employment. "Peelers" get a piece rate - machine workers are on a fixed hourly rate on a sliding scale according to age. A 23 year-old can earn almost double that of a 17/18 year old. Peeling is dirty, and very stressful. People who get really bad, very dirty, very primitive and unsanitary. A new twist on the "catch the night shift, introduced in factory last year as "a temporary dynamic dynamic. It's a run which we've ever done. Prolonged contact with bulbs can cause a form of dermatitis - the flesh under the nails becomes raw and extremely painful putting you out of work. Machine workers are better paid but work 12 hour a day with no overtime rates and little more than an hour for breaks.

There's no canteen faciliti- es; washing facilities are far too many to go outside tap; toilet faciliti- es, particularly for women who are 6pm. The meals are primitive and unsanitary. A new twist on the "get the night shift, introduced in factory last year as "a temporary dynamic dynamic. It's a run which we've ever done. Prolonged contact with bulbs can cause a form of dermatitis - the flesh under the nails becomes raw and extremely painful putting you out of work. Machine workers are better paid but work 12 hour a day with no overtime
Watt's Going On?

DA32, September 1986, featured a disclosure by Tom Watt in City Limits that he is an anarchosyndicalist. This puzzled us somewhat as it's not unusual for vaguely liberal types to call themselves anarchists but "anarchosyndicalist" is a bit more specific. In August Direct Action interviewed Tom about his activities (political or otherwise), "East Ender's" and the acting profession in general.

Q: What was your background before you did your political work and union activities?
TW: My background was a nice comfortable middle class one. My parents were both teachers. I grew up in Holloway/Finsbury Park - round there. When I left school I worked for a year at an electronics factory and the words "trade union" were never mentioned. I wasn't particularly concerned or interested at the time - only doing the job, getting the money and getting drunk. Then I went up to Manchester and did a degree in drama. At the same time I started a theatre company called "Through the Glass" which did two or three productions.

Q: Political productions?
TW: Well, no. It was more political in the way it was organized. One of the plays was political called "Lay-by" about how the roads were laid and the connection between the two. These were away from the public. I only did it for theatres in Manchester.

Q: Fringe theatres?
TW: Well, we did do some at the Lesser Free Trade Hall, Manchester council are quite good like that. They let anyone use premises and if you write them a nice letter they'll give you £500 or so. Then I left the country for a year and I was unemployed in Guatemala and Mexico and we were working as a bicycle messenger for a year. Then I came back and I had nothing and we started a theatre co-op with a group of like-minded people who wanted to do some particular thing, its one thing to talk about doing political plays - that's one small part of it - it's much more important in how you organise what you're going to do. There's a lot of, well, boring political plays that aren't going to reach anyone who doesn't already know what you're talking about.

Q: We realise you don't write "Eastender's" but do you agree it is rough working class society, for example, how did you portray yourself as a victim who either becomes a prostitute or a criminal, whereas there are no trade unionists or community activists who may see themselves in any kind of political light.
TW: Yeah, I think that's a fair observation. (laughter)

Q: Do you ever discuss it with the scriptwriters?
TW: No, you don't have any say in what happens, you only have a say in the words they put in the character's mouth.

Q: You are taking a complaint by a director in "Eastender's" about the portrayal of black people.
TW: I haven't talked to her about that, about what she was getting at, but you've got to appreciate that the thing was written and thought up by middle-aged, for the most part middle-class, white people, so I can't help think it's a question of conscious racism or anything like that... I'm sure they put that on the spot about what their values are they're claim to be non-racist, non-existent, etc. It's not just in "Eastenders" - it happens everywhere - there's so few black writers, directors and producers. That means no matter how hard people try to be convinced about things they end up writing about things they know nothing about. The trouble with television is that subjects like racism and domestic struggles are always dealt with as something separate. They might have a drama or documentary about, say, the miners' strike, but you won't find it related to people's everyday lives.

Q: You were involved in "Hands Across Britain". Don't you feel such stunts encourage people to passivity instead of taking direct action to affect their lives, and to rely on "personalities" to embarrass the government into some kind of action?
TW: Yes, I do.

Q: So why get involved?
TW: Well, I still think you have to stand up and be counted. I'm not a great one for "cooperating". I don't think that "Hands Across Britain" will be instead of other activities.

Q: But "Hands Across Britain" included Tory politicians and bishops - we don't think that was a small step in the right direction but a positive hindrance to effective action.
TW: Yes, I understand what instead of going to Wapping or doing other things.

Q: You're a member of Equity - do you call black people who have worked outside Equity? I think Equity was successful although it's small, it's worth talking to black people who are actors, aren't they? We haven't heard of anyone being barred from the union.

Q: Would you personally refuse to work with someone who had worked in South Africa?
TW: Yes, but that's easy for me to say, isn't it?

Q: Have you or any other attempts to influence those involved in commercials for foreign companies who are thinking particularly of the recent Snelman's dispute?
TW: I'd have to say no. The only situation in which I've ever tried to talk to other actors is about things like Wapping, South Africa and sexist representations in the media. I wouldn't want to talk an actor out of a job or try to talk an actor into a union. The profession is structured so that we are all self-employed and it's not as though anyone ever talks about their contracts and terms of employment. I don't believe it's up to me to get on a high horse about it. I don't personally like it which is why I'm part of an actors' co-op who do discuss conditions, what we're doing, etc.

Q: Did you vote in June?
TW: No, I didn't even get down to the polling booth this time. The Labour's 2 elections I went down and spoilt my ballot paper.

FASCISM AT WORK

Dear comrades,

RECENTLY in my workplace I discovered the intimidating atmosphere of fascism in the workplace, in Red Fascism and Blue Fascism.

The phenomenon is a natural outgrowth of fascism in a large factory, a large section of black/immigrant workers employed at my workplace. I have come across the phenomenon of fascism in the workplace.

The response was very patently antifascist and misguided because, as my supervisor is a Communist and Welsh, he excused the fact that he did not affect them and it was only graffiti. He also accused anarchists of wanting to wipe out millions of people who I countered, saying that he would use the necessary force to counter the bourgeois. The anarcho-communist think that the attitude of the supervisor shows how half-hearted the Left are in believing in certain libraries like books and fascist campaigns, etc. Also it's a fact that both Fascism and Communism, left and right, tend to rotate full circle and express their totalitarian fascist tendencies.

Due to the recent attacks upon us by the RCP and the looming specters of the NF I think it necessary that we as individuals act against racists and fascists in the workplace and community and combat them on every level. The feeble and complacent argument of "ignore them and they'll go away" is of no use to us, as we are all self-employed and to its full extent and fight against them in the workplace.

In my workplace there are many divisions - maybe we are a microcosm of society in general - we have Protestants, Catholics, Marxists, fascists and anarchists, etc. We must act on the fact that the day is upon us to get organized and in fact Snelman's, etc. to be called as they are what they are.

Consequently fascism, left or right, is a threat to people's freedom. I feel the racism/fascism I encountered serves as a warning to anarchists - we must live the struggle day-to-day and be under no illusions about how formidable our enemies are. We must act or be crushed by the enemy. As a result we must fight to its full extent and fight against them in the workplace.

Yours in struggle,
AP
Ideas Live On

The time will come when our silence will be more powerful than the voices you are trumpeting today.

- Inscription on Haymarket martyrs monument in Chicago.

Last year anarchists and syndicalists remembered the centenary of the Haymarket riot in Chicago - the 1st May Day - which started the train of events leading to the suicide of one worker and state murder of 4 others. These men have become known as the Haymarket martyrs.

**MEETINGS**

- **"All Our Lives" video and discussion on women organizing in the Spanish revolution.**
  - Glasgow: Friday October 23rd 7:30-9:30pm - City Hall, Albion St.
  - Edinburgh: Saturday October 24th 2-4:00pm - Gateway Exchange, Aboyne, E2.
- **Russia - Revolution and Counter-Revolution.**
  - London: Tuesday 13th October 7:30pm - Americas Arms, Ameberham Road, New Cross, SE14.
  - London: Monday 26th October 8:15pm - Streatham Library, Streatham High Road, Streatham.

**Songs of Resistance**

"**SOLIDARITY FOREVER**" is one of the most famous IWW (Industrial Workers of the World) songs. It was written by Ralph Chaplin, an active "wobbly" journalist and cartoonist who was inspired by the great Kanawha Valley miners' strike in West Virginia. Many IWW songs were written to traditional or popular tunes, partly to make it easier to spread, partly as parody. "SOLIDARITY FOREVER" is sung to the tune of "John Brown's Body".

If you have any songs and music you would like included please send a copy to SRP, c/o Doncaster DAM, PO Box 96, Doncaster, South Yorks.

The 8 charged men were subjected to a year-long trial before the state finally condemned them. On the last day, Louis Ling told the court: "I despise you, I despise your order, your laws, your force-propelled machinery. Hang me for it!" He then deprived them of that satisfaction by ending his own life in his cell.

Four others - August Spies, Adolph Fischer, Albert Parsons and George Engel - were executed on November 11th 1887. The others - Oscar Neebe, Michael Schwab and Samuel Fielden - were sent to the Illinois Penitentiary 10 years later and declared "victims of governmental injustice". In effect the state admitted using persuasion, provocation and murder to fuel an anti-anarchist panic and crush union resistance.

These tragic events are remembered by the IWA as an example of the brutality of the enemy we face, and the martyrs are remembered for the nobility and class loyalty shown by their final speeches. Last year our American section held a meeting on the anniversary of the Haymarket events:

"If we are to commemorate anything we should in fact commemorate the ideals that the Haymarket martyrs were imprisoned and died for. Let their memory and lives act as an inspiration to every worker that the fight must go on, that the ideas of all those gallant fighters must continue, that is the only real tribute we can pay to the Haymarket martyrs."

Mike Harris, Workers' Solidarity Alliance - IWA.

"That the ideas of all those gallant fighters must continue" DAM is launching a November 11th Solidarity Fund. Please send donations however small, to "November 11th Solidarity", c/o DAM Box DAM, Cambridge Free Press, 25 Gwydir Street, Cambridge. Make cheques payable to DAM. By contributing to today's struggle on November 11th you are paying tribute to those who fought in the past.

**NEW CONTACTS**

Corby/Kettering: ------ c/o DAM National Secretary, Box DAM, Cambridge Free Press, 25 Gwydir St, Cambridge.

Norwich: ------ Box DAM, The Greenhouse, 48 Bethel Street, Norwich.


DAM Despatch Riders: ------ c/o Dept Head 17 Turners Road, Limehouse, London E3.

DAM Unemployed/MSW Workers: ------ c/o Tower Hamlets DAM, 17 Turners Road, Limehouse, London E3.

**DAM-IWA**

1. The Direct Action Movement is a working class organisation.
2. Our aim is the creation of a free and classless society.
3. We are fighting to abolish the state, capitalism and wage slavery in all their forms and replace them with self-managed production for need not profit.
4. In order to bring about the new social order, the workers must take over the means of production and distribution. We are the sworn enemies of those who would take over on behalf of the workers.
5. We believe that the only way for the working class to achieve this is by independent organisation in the work-place and community and federation with others in the same industry and locality, independent of and opposed to all political parties and trade union bureaucracies. All such workers' organisations must be controlled by the workers themselves and must unite rather than divide the workers' movement. Any and all delegitimation of workers' organisations must be subject to immediate recall by the workers.
6. We are opposed to all States and State institutions. The working class has no country. The class struggle is worldwide and there are no artificial boundaries. The armies and police of all States do not exist to protect all workers of those States, they exist only as the repressive arm of the ruling class.
7. We oppose racism, sexism, militarism and all attitudes and institutions that stand in the way of equality and the rights of all people everywhere to control their own lives and end exploitation.
8. The Direct Action Movement is a federation of groups and individuals who believe in the principles of anarchosyndicalism; a system where the workers' alone control industry and the community without the dictates of politicians, bureaucrats, bosses and so-called experts.

The DAM was formed in 1979 from the SWF (Syndicalist Workers' Federation) and other groups and individuals believing in the principles of anarchosyndicalism. It is the British section of the International Workers' Federation. This was formed in 1922 and has national sections in more than twelve countries.

**SUBSCRIPTION RATES**

**UK AND IRELAND**
- 6 issues £2.80 ... 12 issues £5.00

**OVERSEAS**
- 6 issues £3.80 ... 12 issues £6.60

Name ____________________________
Address ____________________________

Send to Box DAM, c/o Raven Press, 75 Piccadilly, Manchester.

Cheques and postal orders should be made payable to DAM.

**WANT TO FIND OUT MORE?**

I would like more information about the Direct Action Movement - Industrial Workers' Association. Please send me information.

Name ____________________________
Address ____________________________

Send to DAM-IWA, c/o DAM Box DAM, Cambridge Free Press, 25 Gwydir St, Cambridge.

Produced and published by Manchester DAM, Printed by Atlas Printers, White Chapel High Street, London. Send articles, letters, and reports to Direct Action, Box DAM, Raven Press, 75 Piccadilly, Manchester. Please let us know whether you send articles or letters as we do not have a library.

Deadline - Oct 19th
INVASION OF THE YUPPIES

Gentrification describes the process whereby a previously working class area, or working vil-
layage, is gradually turned into an upward-
ity camera and electronic-
ly controlled gates. Stan-
20-storey tower blocks
have been cleared and re-de-
veloped, including floors for
indoor gyms, and swimming
pools with 24-hour guards
at the entrances. In these
blocks 1-bedroom flats sold
for £120,000 (worth £140,000
2 months later) to mainly
single business people. It's
essential to demonstrate the
role that selling off council
tenants is in any way bene-
ficial to local people. In
Beckenham Green (in Liberal-
controlled Tower Hamlets) the
council has just sold a re-
down estate to the develop-
ers. The flats when finished
will cost around £85,000
each. As the average wage in
Beckenham is £7,000 per year.

YUPPY INVADERS

For the remaining working
class tenants there are fur-
ther knock-on effects to gen-
trification. The middle class
tend not to rely on local
schools which become run-down
or closed. Public transport
is drastically reduced making
many working class people
virtual prisoners after dark.
The local shops close too, as
the yuppy invaders shop
weekly or fortnightly at
supermarkets miles away and
The Isle of Dogs: Poverty and plenty

YUPPY GHETTO

Gentrification isn't con-
fronted solely to London though.
It is most advanced there.
What began in the '90s as a
problem in particular middle class
professional groups grew throughout
the '70s as the potential of
inner city sites was real-
ized. With the advent of
council house/flat sales we've
seen the character of whole
areas changing. St Kather-
line's Dock at Tower Bridge,
which is a working dock, is now
"wowed" and sold - either
through a sympathetic local
council (as in Liberal-con-
trolled Tower Hamlets) or
through directives from cen-
tral government.

Tory-controlled Wandsworth
council in South London has
shown the way by removing
tenants from estates and
tower blocks earmarked for
sale to private developers.
Estates were re-developed and
sold as "executive" residences
with high walls, fences, sec-

"On a clear day you can see the 'Yuppies decorating the uninhabitable areas out there'

High-rise blocks
Badly-designed and slappily built

responsible for much of the
systematic effort. The campaign
flattened out when the estate
took out injunctions
against many leading activ-
ists. The role result was to
force the estate agents to
cancel the property because of
the local publicity.

DOWNWARDLY MOBILE

Even this protracted and
carried campaign is atypical.
The erosion of a sense of
community was already well in
progress in the '90s and
'80s with wholesale demol-
ition of slums and replacement
with alienating, badly-de-
signed and slappily built
high-rise blocks with little
respect to social amenities
and no sense of collective power
or responsibility. To many there
was little worth in defending
these garrison-like structures.
Only downwardly mobile
middle class leftovers had any affec-
tion for their own romantic
notion of working-class
communities. The more typical
attitude to many communities
was summed up in one local
writ's addition of "You're too
large to the sign "Welcome to
the Isle of Dogs" at the
entrance to the island.

Despite people's ambiva-
 lent feelings towards the con-
ditions they are forced to
live in there's a real hatred of
middle class interlopers who
have come to displace
their areas politically, soc-
entially and culturally. Commu-
unity action groups have formed
in large numbers for some parts of
London - to resist further
attacks. Paradoxically, the
re-development of run-down
council estates and warehouses
has shown what's possible with
an injection of funds. So far in
London, though, the various
campaigns have remained frag-
mented with little attempt to
link the fight for community
survival with that against
privatization and job cuts.
Only a co-ordinated campaign
of communities, health, educa-
tion, and other public ser-
vice workers can bring any
pressure to bear on those who
administer the destruction of
working class communities.